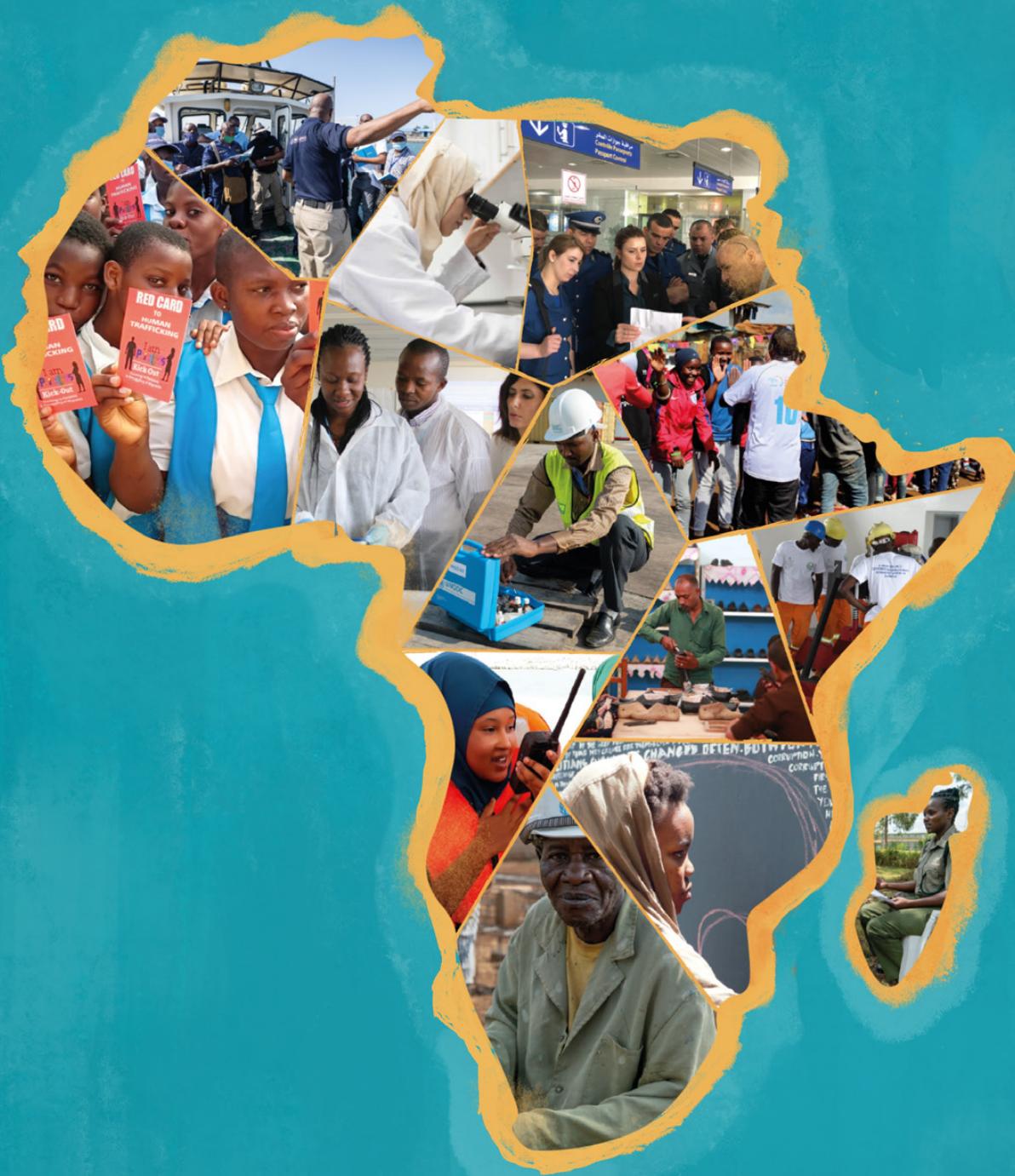




**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



# UNODC STRATEGIC VISION FOR AFRICA 2030





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## PREFACE

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is proud to present our Strategic Vision for Africa 2030. It is an ambitious and practical plan, anchored in our belief in the limitless promise that Africa holds for its people, and the conviction that UNODC can contribute to realizing this potential.

Developed with and bringing together African countries, donors and other stakeholders, the Strategic Vision aims to spark renewed momentum to address the impact of drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism on the continent, to stop these threats from devouring riches and opportunity, and feeding into cycles of poverty and inequity.

The Vision also embodies our unwavering commitment to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the African Union's Agenda 2063, and in doing so bringing true change to the everyday lives of Africa's people, now and in the future.

Our revitalized approach to Africa is further reinforced by the new UNODC corporate strategy 2021-2025, which will ensure efficient, impact-oriented delivery across our mandate areas around the globe.

UNODC takes immense pride in our cooperation with our partners in Africa, building capacities to better prevent and respond to the challenges posed by drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism, towards peace, security and prosperity.

This Vision seeks to adopt a transformative approach to our work by placing people at the center of our responses, setting clear priorities based on the real needs of Africa and Africans, and responding to those needs effectively and with agility.

This document envisions the empowerment of women, children and youth as forces of progress in Africa. It prioritizes strong partnerships, preventive measures, innovation and the elimination of discrimination and stigma as key enablers.

Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, it is more important than ever to invest in and foster societies that are resilient to the threats of tomorrow. We can make this investment by working towards balanced drug control; stronger measures against transnational organized crime, terrorism and violence; protecting Africa's resources from illegal exploitation; safeguarding Africa's economies from corruption, economic crime and illicit financial flows; and more effective criminal justice systems and capabilities.

I thank all stakeholders for their valuable input in formulating this Vision for Africa. It is now time to make this transformative vision a reality. UNODC relies on Member States and donors to provide sufficient and flexible funding to give life to this document. The Vision also needs agents of change who will believe in it, advocate for it and work hand in hand with UNODC to implement its ambitious – but achievable – goals.

I welcome all those willing to work with us for Africa's future, and you can rely on UNODC's full engagement with your efforts and initiatives.

I have a proud, unshakable belief in Africa's people and the unique partnership that UNODC enjoys with Africa. Working together, we can take real steps towards prosperity and development, for the Africa we want, and the one that Africa's people deserve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ghada Waly". It is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

**GHADA WALY**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

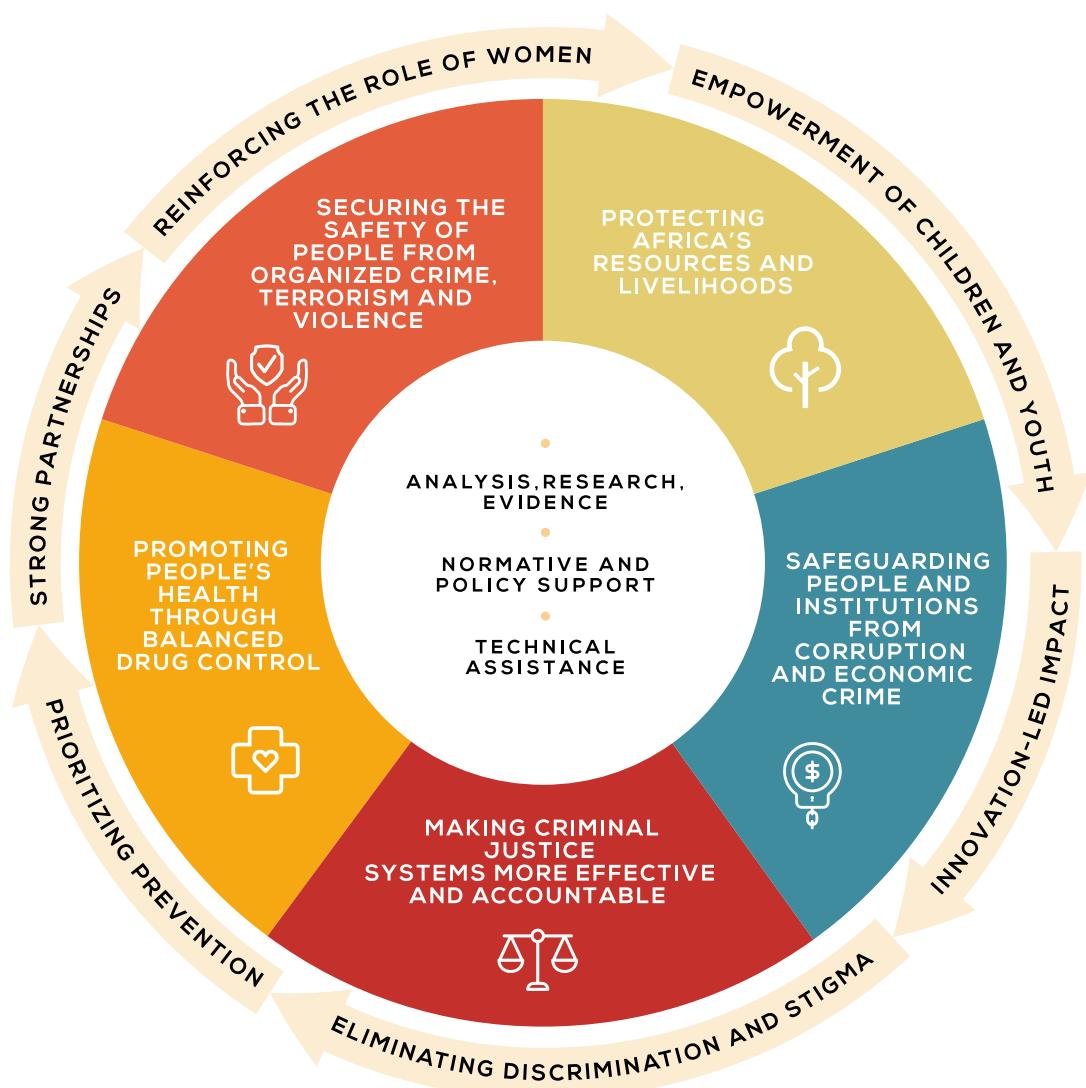
# UNODC STRATEGIC VISION FOR AFRICA 2030

This Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 frames how UNODC and Member States will strengthen Africa's responses to drug control, transnational organized crime, terrorism, corruption and illicit financial flows in order to accelerate Africa's progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

Considering the evolving socio-economic and development challenges across the African continent, including the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, this comprehensive engagement is a roadmap for UNODC in Africa to determine responses and interventions in line with the **UNODC Strategy 2021 - 2025**. In our targeted approach, Africa's people and most vulnerable citizens

will be better protected and prioritized to leave no-one behind. Building on decades of partnerships with African countries, while introducing new areas of emphasis in response to emerging challenges, UNODC will work within its mandate towards achieving tangible and sustainable progress in five investment areas by applying our value proposition of analytic, normative and technical cooperation. To make this progress sustainable, we will leverage six change enablers: forging strong partnerships, empowering children and youth, reinforcing the role of women, eliminating discrimination and stigma, integrating innovation and prioritizing prevention-based approaches.

## OVERVIEW OF UNODC STRATEGIC VISION FOR AFRICA



# CHALLENGES

DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERNS



AFRICA'S POPULATION  
↑1.3 BILLION

Africa's population doubled to 1.3 billion during the last 30 years and is projected to double again during the next 30 years. Currently, half of Africa's population is younger than 20 years old and, globally, disaffected young men can be particularly prone to crime, violence, radicalization and drug use.

ENVIRONMENT



CLIMATE  
CHANGE

Climate change is intensifying and biodiversity loss poses major challenges to sustainable development with the two intrinsically linked: UNODC has consistently found evidence of criminal activities and corruption behind illegal logging and wildlife trafficking.

HEALTH



HEALTHCARE LIMITED  
FOR 400+ MILLION  
AFRICANS

Access to healthcare for more than 400 million African people is either non-existent or severely restricted. With more than 95 per cent of medicine and medical products in Africa imported, crime and corruption targeting medical products and health systems is an emerging threat to lives.

POVERTY

2/3 OF THE WORLD'S  
POOREST PEOPLE  
WILL BE LIVING IN  
FRAGILE SITUATIONS

The World Bank estimates that by 2030, up to two-thirds of the world's poorest people will be living in fragile and conflict-affected situations. Conflict, fragility and weak institutions attract organized crime, illicit networks and markets, and extremist organizations. Terrorism, violent extremism and corruption continue to undermine peace and security across many parts of Africa.

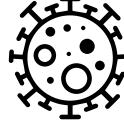
ECONOMIC CRIME AND CORRUPTION



AFRICANS ARE  
DENIED MORE THAN  
\$50 BILLION PER  
YEAR IN PUBLIC AND  
PRIVATE MONEY

Corruption and a lack of sufficient accountability and oversight mechanisms are threatening Africa's sustainable development, human security and governance and facilitating transnational organized crime. Africans are denied more than \$50 billion per year in public and private money that is illegally earned, transferred or used, according to the Mbeki report on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs). An estimated \$88.6 billion, equivalent to 3.7 percent of Africa's GDP, leaves the continent yearly.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC



GLOBAL  
PANDEMIC

Smuggled migrants and refugees, children and youth, prison populations and people who use drugs or are living with HIV have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises. The pandemic has prompted a general rise in violence against women, girls and children, and a rise in domestic violence in particular.

ECONOMIC SECTORS VULNERABLE TO ORGANIZED CRIME GROUP INFILTRATION AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS, Owing TO:

FINANCIAL DISTRESS



LOGISTICS AND  
E-COMMERCE



WHOLESALE TRADE  
IN MEDICAL PRODUCTS



WHOLESALE TRADE  
IN PHARMACEUTICAL  
PRODUCTS



FOOD RETAIL  
TRADE



CLEANING SERVICES,  
WASTE MANAGEMENT  
AND FUNERAL SERVICES

WIDENING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPLOITATION



RETAIL AND  
MARKETPLACES



TRANSPORTATION



TOURISM AND  
HOSPITALITY



ARTS,  
ENTERTAINMENT  
AND RECREATION



ISTOCKPHOTO/HADYNYAH

# OPPORTUNITIES



UNODC / PAOLO IMPAGLIAZZO

## DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDENDS

### INCREASING YOUTH DEMOGRAPHIC

Africa's increasing youth demographic offers considerable opportunities for **children and young people to come together in collective action and be empowered as agents of change** to build a sustainable future. Migration brings opportunities too. The new African Union Protocol dealing with the free movement of persons facilitates migration across and within the continent, thereby stimulating trade, expanding opportunities for employment and education and increasing international remittances. **Safe and orderly migration provides safety, hope and alternatives to people migrating** due to inter alia conflict, climate change, violence, persecution and terrorism.

## URBANIZATION



X 3

Many African countries are undergoing rapid urbanization, with the rate projected to triple by 2050. Opportunities for economic growth, poverty reduction and human and social development are increasing and cities can act as cornerstones for technological innovation, science, education and entrepreneurship.

## DIGITALIZATION



Africa's commitment to digital transformation is bold and has immense potential. A host of ambitious **African Union, regional and national initiatives** underline Africa's commitment to closing the digital divide by 2030.

## GENDER EQUALITY



There is enormous potential for advancing gender equality within frameworks such as the **Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2018-2028** of the African Union.

## BIODIVERSITY & RESOURCES



**Africa is continuing to experience economic growth** despite external shocks. The continent is exceptionally rich in biodiversity and natural resources, offering advantages for both the development of export-oriented industries and expansion in the tourism sector. Protecting this resource base from organized crime and corruption is an important step towards promoting economic, social and environmental sustainability.

## ACHIEVING SDGs

+ \$ 200 BILLION

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development reports how **curbing illicit financial flows could almost halve the \$200 billion annual financing gap Africa faces to achieve the SDGs.**

## ECONOMIC GROWTH



**The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** is a major opportunity for Africa to facilitate trade and increase output, irrespective of output losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This agreement has the potential to drive immense economic growth, increase employment opportunities and incomes, and attract foreign investment.

## THE SEVEN ASPIRATIONS OF AU AGENDA 2063

### 4. A PEACEFUL AND SECURE AFRICA

**3. AN AFRICA OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, DEMOCRACY, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW**



**5. AFRICA WITH A STRONG CULTURAL IDENTITY COMMON HERITAGE, VALUES AND ETHICS**



**6. AN AFRICA WHOSE DEVELOPMENT IS PEOPLE-DRIVEN, RELYING ON THE POTENTIAL OFFERED BY THE AFRICAN PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY ITS WOMEN AND YOUTH, AND CARING FOR CHILDREN**



**7. AN AFRICA AS A STRONG, UNITED, RESILIENT AND INFLUENTIAL GLOBAL PLAYER AND PARTNER**

**2. AN INTEGRATED CONTINENT POLITICALLY UNITED AND BASED ON THE IDEALS OF PAN-AFRICANISM AND THE VISION OF AFRICAN RENAISSANCE**



**1. A PROSPEROUS AFRICA BASED ON INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



THE  
**7** Agenda  
**2063**  
ASPIRATIONS



WITH LESS THAN TEN YEARS REMAINING TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS, AFRICA IS AT A CROSSROADS. UNODC'S STRATEGIC VISION FOR AFRICA 2030 SETS OUT A WAY FORWARD THAT WILL ENABLE PARTNERSHIPS TO LEVERAGE AFRICA'S STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES. UNODC'S MANDATES, TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND WIDE GEOGRAPHIC REACH OFFER A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THE AGENDA 2030 AND AGENDA 2063 PRIORITIES FOR PEACE, SECURITY, RULE OF LAW, HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL COHESION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.



# OUR VALUE PROPOSITION

UNODC's important and complementary mandates distinguish the organization from others in the same field: serving as guardian of international conventions and secretariat to global policy bodies; providing strong research and policy analysis; and combining global expertise and a wide field presence to provide specialized analytical, normative and technical assistance to Member States.



## NORMATIVE AND POLICY SUPPORT

- As guardian of conventions and other legal instruments and by serving as the secretariat to global policy bodies on drug control, organized crime, terrorism and corruption
- As custodian of the UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice
- By providing normative support to Member States with ratification and implementation of these instruments
- By developing domestic legislation and providing services to intergovernmental policy-making bodies
- By strengthening Member States' legal and policy frameworks including civil society's involvement



## ANALYSIS, RESEARCH, EVIDENCE

- Through authoritative research products and analysis
- By strengthening Member States' data, analysis, research and statistics to generate a much needed evidence-base for legislative, policy and operational responses
- Through innovative and sustainable approaches reliant on regional and sub-regional partnerships i.e. new regional data hubs and national observatories
- Through increased understanding of the causes and drivers of organized crime, crime group profiles and the nexus between drugs, organized crime types and other phenomena



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- By combining substantive global expertise at HQ level with an extensive field presence that promotes approaches tailored to the African context
- By building capacities and expertise sustainably at national and regional level and furthering the growth of mentors and champions
- By maximizing South-South cooperation and facilitating mutually beneficial partnerships between countries and institutions

## KEY NORMATIVE DOCUMENTS

### CRIME-RELATED TREATIES

- **United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its three Protocols** (the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and the Firearms Protocol)
- **United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)**

### DRUG-RELATED TREATIES

- **Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol**
- **Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971**
- **United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988**

### TERRORISM-RELATED INSTRUMENTS

- **International legal instruments against terrorism and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions**

# THE FIVE INVESTMENT AREAS



## INVESTMENT AREA 1.

**PROMOTING PEOPLE'S HEALTH THROUGH  
BALANCED DRUG CONTROL**



## INVESTMENT AREA 2.

**SECURING THE SAFETY OF PEOPLE FROM  
ORGANIZED CRIME, TERRORISM  
AND VIOLENCE**



## INVESTMENT AREA 3.

**PROTECTING AFRICA'S RESOURCES  
AND LIVELIHOODS**



## INVESTMENT AREA 4.

**SAFEGUARDING PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS  
FROM CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC CRIME**



## INVESTMENT AREA 5.

**MAKING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS  
MORE EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE**



## INVESTMENT AREA 1.

# PROMOTING PEOPLE'S HEALTH THROUGH BALANCED DRUG CONTROL

In support of Member States' efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5 and 16, the African Union's Aspirations 1 and 6 and the objectives of the **African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2019-2023)**, we will work together to provide effective and balanced drug control solutions to protect health and livelihoods.



### 1.1. IMPROVED DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

A lack of available, reliable and comparative data on drug use in Africa limits understanding of the extent of drug use, related trends and impacts on health, especially in light of population growth. **The annual UNODC World Drug Report (WDR)** points to rising drug use in Africa with new patterns emerging. The 2020 WDR signalled a rise in the non-medical use of opioids across the continent, based on the increasing proportion of people treated for opioid use disorders including for the misuse of tramadol. With improved and accurate data, analysis, research and capacity, Member States will be better positioned to deliver more effective responses at the policy and programming levels for people at risk of using drugs and those requiring treatment.

#### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Improving capacities in research, data and analysis to strengthen drug control responses, improve the evidence-base and enrich Africa's data through innovative tools, leveraging partnerships and facilitating sustainable multi-sectoral networks.
- Facilitating the establishment of new drug use observatories to better streamline data collection, analysis and reporting systems, incorporating innovative approaches and promoting South-South cooperation.



UNODC/PAREET SHAH



UNODC

### 1.2 STRENGTHENED RESPONSES TO DRUG TRAFFICKING

**Data indicates that drug trafficking in Africa continues to rise.** Heroin is trafficked in increasing quantities to the East African coast, transiting through the continent along several routes to Europe, contributing to insurgency in East Africa and fuelling urban crime and violence in the region. The World Bank identifies **drug trafficking as one of the most significant risks to peacebuilding** in post-conflict, conflict and fragile states, underlining the need for strengthened countermeasures in order to contribute to peace and security. In some regions, the proceeds of drug trafficking finances insurgent and extremist groups. Cocaine seizure data also points to rising cocaine trafficking, with several West African countries having emerged as key transshipment areas for cocaine destined for Europe and other markets. Although still low by global standards, there is growing concern around methamphetamine manufacture in Africa, both for domestic markets and for export, made possible by the increasing availability of precursor chemicals. Cannabis cultivation is prevalent on the continent as is trafficking in cannabis resin.

#### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Focusing on prevention, interdiction, action against the proceeds of crime and effective investigations and prosecution, to address drug trafficking.
- Assisting Member States to enhance cross-border, regional and international cooperation contributing to more secure borders, ports, airports and maritime areas.
- Promoting sustainable livelihood programmes to reduce drug trafficking and local production, with a focus on youth and women.

#### GLOBAL SEIZURES OF TRAMADOL, 2000-2017



#### 1.3 IMPROVED RESPONSES TO DRUG USE AND RELATED HIV PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

Scores of people across Africa, particularly disaffected youth and those living in rapidly urbanizing areas, are at increased risk of developing drug use disorders and associated health problems such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis C. Although the continent has witnessed some exemplary best practices, the vast majority of drug prevention, treatment and care is not evidence-based. Those completing treatment for substance use disorders have little to no recourse to comprehensive aftercare, including opportunities for education, economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods.

Limited policies, strategies and programmes aimed at HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use and inject drugs - and those in prison settings - are hindering Africa's efforts towards ending the AIDS epidemic. The World Health Organization (WHO), UNODC and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) recommend providing people who inject drugs with access to a **comprehensive and essential package of HIV prevention services**. However, discrimination and stigma often hinders accessibility. The COVID-19 pandemic and related responses will likely widen an already vast treatment gap for people using drugs, as well as prompting a rise in injecting drug use.

#### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Providing technical assistance and normative support to Member States and working with civil society in order to increase the coverage and quality of human rights- and evidence-based comprehensive drug prevention and treatment services, and HIV services.
- Increasing key groups' access to services including children, youth, women, people who inject drugs, refugees, displaced people, those living in 'informal' urban contexts and people in contact with the criminal justice system. This will be achieved using digital means, innovative evidence-based approaches and working in collaboration with UN agencies and civil society.

#### 1.4 BETTER ACCESS TO, AND MEDICAL USE OF, CONTROLLED MEDICINES CONTAINING NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

People around the world, including many in Africa, are affected by untreated pain and have no access to the appropriate substances required for surgical procedures, nor for the treatment of other health conditions. **Almost every African in severe physical pain is being left behind** with little to no recourse to effective pain relief medicine to alleviate suffering. Global disparities in access to, and adequate use of, controlled medicines is principally due to lack of national health care system capacity, health care staff shortages and limited training. Low- and middle-income countries – home to 88 per cent of the global population – consume less than 10 per cent of all pharmaceutical opioids. Increasing access to controlled drugs for medical purposes is a critical step towards global health equity.

#### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Expanding coverage and capacity to ensure more African citizens have access to, and receive, essential controlled medicines, by working innovatively with, and fostering collaboration between, Member States, civil society advocates and other key partners.
- Providing technical assistance to health workers as well as establishing and strengthening regulations to ensure access to, and adequate use of, controlled medicines while preventing diversion to non-medical use.



UNODC

## 1.5 MORE PROTECTION FROM FALSIFIED MEDICAL PRODUCTS

A significant threat to the health of people throughout Africa is the increasing circulation of falsified medical products. **According to WHO, an estimated one in ten medical products circulating in low- and middle-income countries is either substandard or falsified**, a reality that disproportionately affects Member States in Africa. With demand surging during the COVID-19 pandemic, **the prevalence of substandard or falsified medical product trafficking has risen exponentially** and has been facilitated by the darknet along with related procurement corruption and illicit diversion of legitimate medical products.

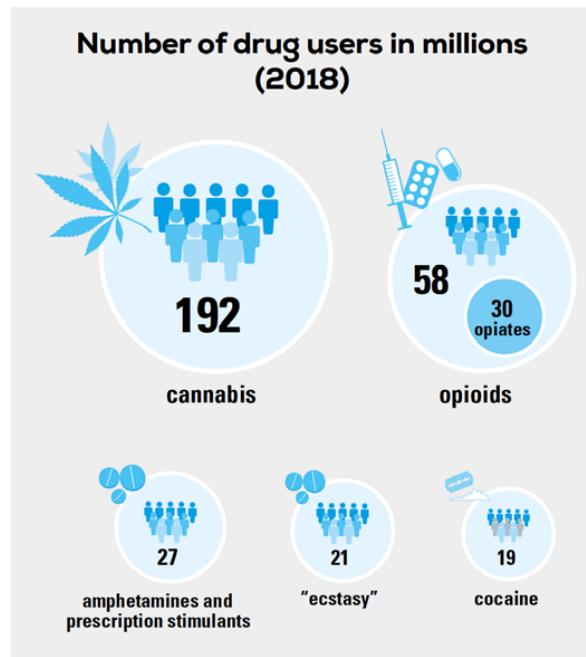
Despite these challenges, there is significant potential to develop Africa's own pharmaceutical industry, **which grew to \$28.6 billion in 2017 from \$5.5 billion a decade earlier**, and for stakeholders to leverage partnerships to address substandard and falsified medical product trafficking in order to achieve wider access to safe, effective and affordable medicines.



ISTOCKPHOTO/SKODONNELL

### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Engaging with African Member States, regional and international organizations, UN agencies and the private sector to protect the integrity of medical products and legitimate supply chains while countering related corruption to better safeguard citizens' health and support Africa's growing pharmaceutical market.
- Supporting African Member States towards improved public health and incorporating victim-centred approaches, comprehensive and innovative law enforcement, and criminal justice responses that focus on interdiction and the effective investigation and prosecution of traffickers.

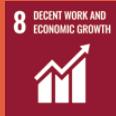




## INVESTMENT AREA 2.

# SECURING THE SAFETY OF PEOPLE FROM ORGANIZED CRIME, TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE

In support of Member States' efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 5, 8 and 16 and the African Union's Aspirations 3, 4 and 6, we will work collaboratively with stakeholders to protect people from terrorism, violence and physical exploitation, promote the rule of law, support victims and protect human rights.



+



## 2.1 ALL AFRICANS, AND IN PARTICULAR VULNERABLE PEOPLE, ARE BETTER PROTECTED FROM TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Terrorist acts are carried out by a multitude of groups and actors in Africa and disrupt development, human security, and peacebuilding efforts. Terrorism is exacerbated by conflict, including intercommunal unrest, and at the same time conflict is sustained by illicit trafficking, including arms trafficking. An increasing digital space is providing opportunities for radicalization, recruitment and training by terrorists.

Transitioning into violent extremism is often a **journey marked by marginalization, lack of opportunities and grievances with the state**. Terrorist groups exploit and recruit the more socio-economically vulnerable. With 60 per cent of Africa's population under 25 years of age, children and youth are targeted and especially vulnerable. Children have been forced into labour, subjected to sexual and gender-based violence and sent into armed combat. Some boys and girls have been coerced into carrying out suicide bombings.

Terrorists require financing to recruit and support members, maintain logistics hubs and conduct operations. Many African States lack the legal and operational frameworks and technical expertise needed to detect, investigate and prosecute terrorist financing cases. Increased attention to prevent and counter terrorism is required across the continent but most urgently in fragile, conflict-affected and rapidly urbanizing areas. Harnessing the potential of women and youth to raise awareness against and prevent terrorism will be key to our approach. Urbanization offers a multitude of opportunities for terrorism, violence and crime prevention when addressed within the broader context of a city ecosystem.

### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Supporting Member States to ensure criminal justice responses to terrorism are effective, accountable and respond to the needs of service users, focusing on strategies for the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons associated with terrorist groups.

- Prioritizing integrated approaches to prevent children and youth from resorting to violence in partnership with other UN agencies and civil society organizations.
- Emphasizing the need for human rights-based approaches across all terrorism-related criminal justice responses in order to promote citizens' trust in their authorities.
- Prioritizing assistance for victims and witnesses of terrorism to receive the justice, protection, support and rehabilitation they deserve.

## 2.2 PEOPLE ARE SAFER FROM THE HARMS OF FIREARMS

Conflict and violent crime are some of the biggest challenges facing Africa's stability, security and development. Firearms violence involves a proliferation of small arms and light weapons imported legally, trafficked illegally or manufactured by national government enterprises and local artisans. Terrorism drives the demand for illicit arms further and **clear links are emerging between drug trafficking and firearms trafficking on the continent**. The links between the **availability and misuse of small arms and gender-based violence** are also well established.

Illicitly trafficked firearms lead to violence on the continent, with high **levels of intentional homicide and firearm-related homicide**. Conflict weakens the rule of law and reduces authorities' ability to manage both national stocks and confiscated firearms, as well as capacity to enforce regulations, thereby contributing to the illicit supply of firearms. A **UNODC report** reveals significant numbers of seized arms in Africa linked to trafficking – despite underreporting of certain types of firearms.

A key measure of the African Union's continent-wide initiative on '**Silencing the Guns**' calls for countries to monitor and combat illicit firearms trafficking, organized crime and terrorism. The Firearms Protocol serves as the principal global legal instrument to address the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and is the only international legal instrument with the requirement to establish these conducts as criminal offences.

#### **OUR OBJECTIVES:**

- Intensifying the fight against illicit firearms together with Member States, the AU, UN partners and other key stakeholders, with an increased focus on fragile and conflict-affected areas.
- Strengthening capacities in firearms identification, detection and seizures to bolster the capacity of criminal justice agencies to carry out effective post-seizure strategies for firearms trafficking cases, and to facilitate cooperation and information sharing.



ISTOCKPHOTO/SPECNAZ-S

#### **2.3 CHILDREN ARE BETTER PROTECTED FROM VIOLENCE**

Violence against children is a significant and widespread problem and includes the **exploitation of children by terrorist groups, domestic violence, forced labour, child trafficking and smuggling, and sexual exploitation**. Children are vulnerable and violence against them has lifelong consequences. This violence not only affects children, but severely impacts families, communities and nations.

Despite some recent progress, violence against children remains socially tolerated in many countries and legislative prohibition is inconsistent. Only a small proportion of cases are investigated, with crimes often remaining hidden. Boys frequently face higher rates of physical violence whereas girls are at higher risk of multiple and intersecting forms of violence, especially sexual violence. Due to their vulnerability, child victims of violence require special safeguards to ensure their protection.

#### **OUR OBJECTIVES:**

- Enhancing support provided to Member States to protect society's most vulnerable, working in collaboration with Member States, UN partners and other relevant organizations for the implementation of society-wide and community-level initiatives.

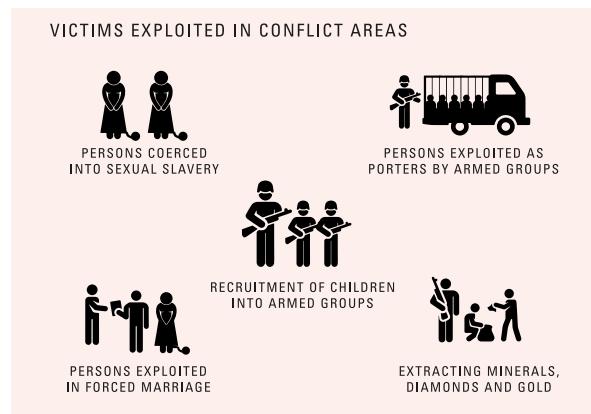
#### **2.4 WOMEN AND YOUTH ARE SAFER FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION**

Gender-based and sexual violence, abuse and harassment of women and girls is prevalent across Africa. Women and girls are subjected to rape and sexual violence but are also used as a weapon of war and involved in terrorist attacks. With a rate of around 3.1 victims per 100,000 female population, **Africa has the highest rate of women most at risk of being killed by intimate partners or family members**. Organized criminal groups are overwhelmingly responsible for, or involved in, the violence and exploitation inflicted on women and girls. People living in areas directly or indirectly affected by armed conflict **may be vulnerable to different forms of age- and gender-specific exploitation**. Data reveals that **the level of both physical and sexual violence experienced by women is highest in African countries**.

Youth face many challenges that make them particularly vulnerable to crime, violence and victimization, including gang-related crime, violent extremism, drug use and sexual exploitation. At the same time, by virtue of their age and learning abilities, **young people are key agents of change in creating a better future and have great potential to advocate on behalf of themselves and their communities**. Experience has shown that carefully targeted projects which actively involve youth in decision making, education and skills training, entrepreneurship and job creation can build resilience by providing them with alternative lifestyles to drug and gang involvement.

#### **OUR OBJECTIVES:**

- Implementing society-wide and community-level responses that target known risk factors of crime and violence and make people more resilient.
- Ensuring effective rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders and enabling them to lead adaptive and productive lives by working in alliance with African civil society organizations – particularly those which are grassroots, women- and youth-led.
- Working to strengthen sustainable programmes to assist, protect and support victims of crime and the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.



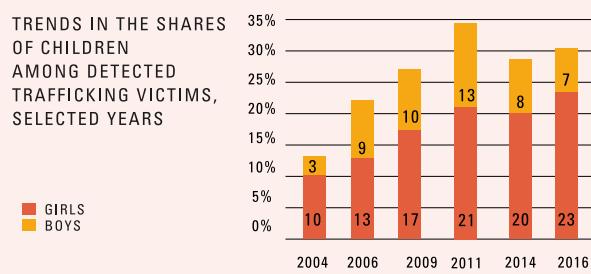
## 2.5 PEOPLE ARE SAFER FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKERS AND MIGRANT SMUGGLERS

Human trafficking dehumanizes, abuses and exploits victims, trading them as commodities and risking lives and welfare. Very few victims of this vastly under-prosecuted and borderless crime are detected, which suggests that traffickers operate with a high level of impunity in Africa. All corners of Africa likely constitute source, transit or destination countries for the cross-border trade in people, with all demographics and groups potentially vulnerable. High levels of unemployment, poverty, corruption, political strife, climate change and violence further contribute to displacement. These factors place Africa's people, especially women and girls, at a disproportionate level of vulnerability to trafficking by organized criminals.

Migrants smuggled within and from Africa, in search of a better life and more opportunities, fall victim to serious forms of crime. Every year, thousands of migrants are killed as a result of smuggling activities. **Mass killings, systematic torture, sexual violence, exploitation and kidnapping of smuggled migrants for extortion are some of the dangers associated with migrant smuggling and are recorded along many key smuggling routes.** Those spared from exploitation in situ will likely be exploited on arrival at their destination and forced into bonded labour, sex working, forced marriage or subjected to other forms of abuse. Many organizations and governments have prioritized safe and regular migration, making available significant resources in pursuit of this goal. There is an important opportunity in leveraging these resources and working multilaterally to allow Africa's vulnerable people access to legal migration or safe, healthy and legal socio-economic opportunities in their home countries or abroad.

### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Improving the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of cases to better address illegal migration and counter criminal organizations involved in human trafficking and smuggling in migrants.
- Increasing focus on vulnerable groups, in particular women and children, in terms of prevention and awareness raising at the community level, as well as supporting authorities to mainstream victim-centred approaches that prioritise reintegration, access to social services support and health care, and reducing victim stigmatization.



UNODC/PAOLO IMPAGLIAZZO

## 2.6 PEOPLE IN AFRICA ARE BETTER PROTECTED FROM CYBERCRIME AND ONLINE EXPLOITATION

Relatively few countries in Africa have national cybersecurity policies, legal and regulatory frameworks or computer emergency response teams, contributing to Africa's vulnerability to cybercrime. Online child sexual exploitation is evolving rapidly and making use of new technologies. Online fraud and extortion target individuals whilst ransomware primarily compromises systems. The increasing spread of misinformation and disinformation will continue to exploit the public and their institutions, jeopardise health, safety and security and undermine the scientific response.

**The African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection** (the 'Malabo Convention') can accelerate Africa's efforts to capitalize on the digitalization boom, rapidly expanding information and communications technologies sectors and the adoption of mobile technology.

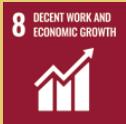
### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Elevating support to Member States to build capacity and technical expertise in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of cybercrime, incorporating increased partnership and liaison with the information and communications technology sectors.
- Strengthening mechanisms for international cooperation, data collection, research and analysis on cybercrime to enrich the evidence-base and inform tailored responses.
- Increasing assistance to ensure victims and witnesses of cybercrime - with a special focus on victims of online child sexual exploitation - receive justice, protection, support and rehabilitation incorporating human rights-based approaches and working in collaboration with a range of partners.



## INVESTMENT AREA 3. PROTECTING AFRICA'S RESOURCES AND LIVELIHOODS

In support of Member States' efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 5, 8, 13, 14, 15 and 16 and the African Union's Aspirations 1 and 3, we will work together to protect Africa's resources from criminal exploitation.



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### 3.1 AFRICA'S FORESTS AND WILDLIFE ARE SAFER FROM CRIME

Forest crime, and the corruption facilitating it, is depriving Africa of a significant source of revenue, threatening forest-resource dependent communities, contributing to climate change and perpetuating the cycle of poverty and social vulnerability. The value chain for forest products is vulnerable to exploitation by criminal groups and corrupt actors, and risks include fraud, forged licenses and permits, bribery, extortion, land grabbing and other economic crimes, including the illegal timber trade.

The trafficking and illicit trade of wild fauna and marine species contribute to a significant loss in biodiversity, limits opportunities for income generation (from tourism and from sustainable use), prompts insecurity and instability and potentially compromises public health. **The UNODC World Wildlife Crime Report** indicates that organized criminals derive around \$400 million in illicit income per year from the illegal trade in ivory and \$230 million per year from the illegal rhino horn trade. Pangolins, for example, are currently considered to be the most heavily trafficked mammal globally, with a ten-fold increase in illegal trade since 2014 mirrored by a shift in sourcing, primarily to Africa.

Mainstreaming criminal justice into the broader climate change and biodiversity frameworks of the African Union can promote a more holistic approach; in the absence of strong institutions resilient to crime and corruption, gains in conservation and management will not be sustainable. This is broadly recognized by the African Union and regional economic communities, which have adopted strategies and action plans that specifically address trafficking and illegal trade.

#### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Strengthening capacities to prevent, detect, interdict, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate forest and wildlife crime.
- Promoting networking and fostering inter-agency cooperation through new and existing forest and wildlife crime prevention and criminal justice mechanisms, in collaboration with Africa-based organizations, civil society and public-private partnerships.



UNSPASH/MATTHEW SPITERI

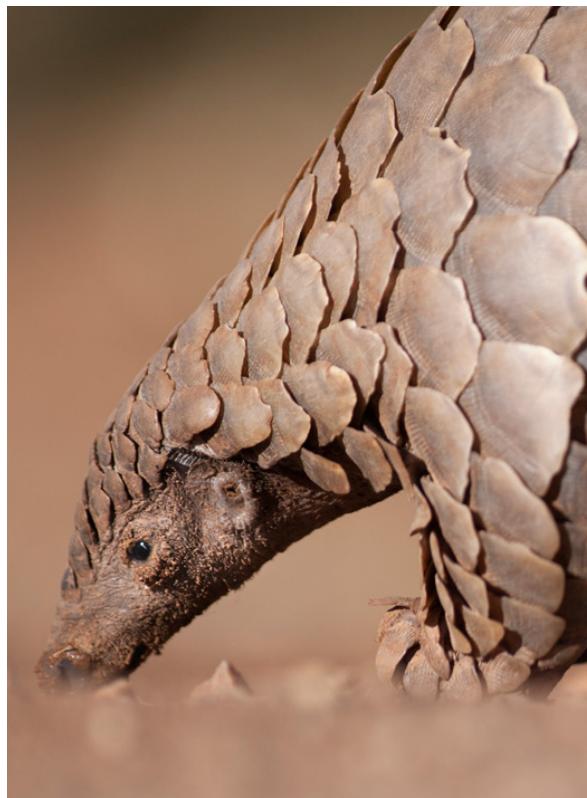
### 3.2 FISHERIES AND THE BLUE ECONOMY ARE BETTER PROTECTED FROM ILLEGAL EXPLOITATION

Oceans and fisheries support the global population's economic, social and environmental needs yet suffer unsustainable depletion, environmental deterioration and the threat of piracy. Increased efforts to combat maritime crime and strengthen criminal justice responses are required in order to complement ongoing efforts in ocean governance aimed at protecting trade, marine environments, shipping, fisheries and coastal communities. Current initiatives to protect Africa's oceans and resources remain limited and criminal threats to sustainable fishing are largely misunderstood. Fisheries and maritime safety are core to Africa's 'blue economy', but economic losses from crimes in the fisheries value chain are estimated at about \$2.5 billion per year. The fisheries value chain remains extremely vulnerable to a broad array of corrupt practices and economic crimes which can further exacerbate a tenuous food security and livelihoods situation.

Maritime and fisheries crime negatively impact coastal communities which consist of artisanal and subsistence fishers. The vast, intra-regional fish trade network that incorporates small-scale producers employs **many women who are equally at risk of losing revenue as men and have greater difficulty finding work in other industries**. The African Union's 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy recognizes Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) as a key enabler for building maritime security and safety across the continent. Leveraging new technologies in MDA can generate the high-quality intelligence necessary to strengthen maritime security.

#### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Expanding our work to protect Africa's 'blue economy' through improved MDA capabilities by leveraging new technologies and innovative approaches.
- Supporting Member States to prevent, identify, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate piracy, fisheries and other maritime crimes.
- Scaling up support to Member States through community-based crime prevention approaches – including youth- and women-led approaches – to generate socio-economic interventions, to combat maritime insecurity in target areas and to reduce their dependence on income from piracy and other forms of maritime crime.



ISTOCKPHOTO/2630BEN

#### TYPES OF MARITIME CRIME WE COUNTER



TERRORISM AT SEA



ILLICIT TRAFFICKING  
OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL,  
HAZARDOUS WASTE  
AND CHEMICALS



DRUG  
TRAFFICKING



FIREARMS  
TRAFFICKING



PIRACY



HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
AND SMUGGLING  
OF MIGRANTS



FISHERIES  
CRIME



ERIK PATEL

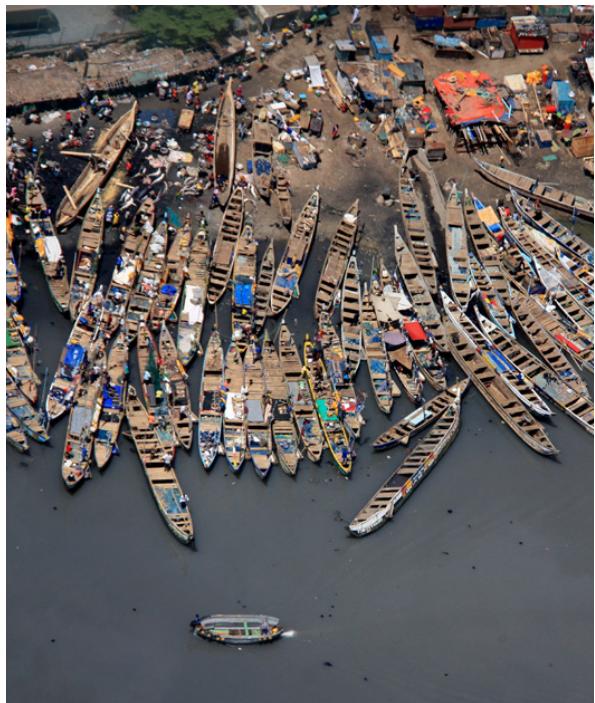
### 3.3 AFRICA IS BETTER PROTECTED FROM HAZARDOUS WASTE

Challenges in effective hazardous waste management, the illicit trade of waste and illicit trade in chemicals on the continent is one of Africa's emerging and most underexposed organized crime threats, and provides ample opportunities for transnational organized crime syndicates to operate. The limited capacity of law enforcement and the criminal justice system to identify, disrupt and prosecute crimes relating to the illegal movement, trade, shipping and disposal of hazardous and e-waste results in serious risks to the environment as well as to human health. African nations have long dealt with incidents involving hazardous waste dumping through importation or outright dumping. Unfortunate environmental disasters, along with land and marine dumping of harmful chemical materials and pollutants, threaten the health and livelihoods of African communities, the biodiversity of the continent and wider planet.

Parties to the Bamako Convention, as well as other conventions such as the Basel and Waigani conventions, are required to treat illegal waste trafficking as criminal acts under domestic law. Currently, 28 African countries are Parties to the Bamako Convention, which prohibits the import of all hazardous and radioactive waste into Africa, minimizes and controls transboundary movement of waste between African countries and prohibits all ocean and inland water dumping or incineration of hazardous waste.

#### OUR OBJECTIVE:

- Introducing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice response packages to collaboratively address emerging environmental crimes, reliant on strong partnerships with UN agencies, international, regional and national partners.



ISTOCKPHOTO/BEN SCHUSTERBAUER

### 3.4 EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO ILLEGAL MINING AND TRAFFICKING IN PRECIOUS METALS

In Africa, conflict zones are disproportionately affected by illegal mining and trafficking in precious metals. Mineral supply chains in Africa are often **linked to child abuse, human trafficking, forced labour and other human rights violations**. Precious metals can provide a lucrative source of funds for criminal groups, insurgents or terrorists to extort authorities or artisanal miners, or to defend areas from rival groups and prevent authorities' access.

The Africa Mining Vision (AMV), a pan-African policy framework developed by the African Union to transform Africa's mineral sector for sustainable development, sets out interventions to improve the capacity for mineral sector governance. Critically, the AMV creates opportunities for African countries to coordinate and cooperate on addressing related IFFs.

#### OUR OBJECTIVE:

- Developing our work with Member States, relevant authorities and the private sector to identify vulnerabilities and suspicious transactions in the mineral supply chain and to build robust institutional capacity to investigate, prosecute, seize and confiscate criminal assets, as well as to prevent trafficking in precious metals, stones and other minerals.



ISTOCKPHOTO/ZNM

### 3.5 AFRICA'S CULTURAL PROPERTY IS BETTER PROTECTED FROM TRAFFICKING

Trafficking in cultural property appears to be linked to drug and arms trafficking, violence and financing of terrorism and money-laundering. Africa's precious historical artefacts, archaeological sites and antiquities, especially those in conflict areas, are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. The AU's declaration of 2021 as Year of Arts, Culture and Heritage, the 2021 inauguration of the Great African Museum and forthcoming revised AU Model Law on the Protection of Cultural Property and Heritage underscore the continent's dedication to promoting and preserving Africa's rich cultural heritage.

#### OUR OBJECTIVE:

- Introducing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice responses to better protect Africa's cultural property from organized crime and build accountability.



## INVESTMENT AREA 4. SAFEGUARDING PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS FROM CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC CRIME

In support of Member States' efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 5, 11, 16 and 17 and the African Union's Aspirations 1 and 7, we will work together to protect people and economies from corruption and economic crime in line with the principles and ideas set forth in the **UN Common Position to Address Global Corruption: Towards UNGASS 2021** and guided by the Declaration adopted by UNGASS 2021.



### 4.1 AFRICA'S INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS DEMONSTRATE INCREASED INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

An overwhelming majority of Africa's people are directly confronted with financial exploitation through corruption, fraud and bribery, but also indirectly affected by the misappropriation of public funds. The vast majority of **citizens surveyed in thirty-five African countries believe that corruption is worsening**. Corruption hinders economic development and inclusive growth and frustrates the economic aspirations of millions of people across the region. Corruption weakens institutions, erodes trust and jeopardizes justice and the rule of law.

At the same time, several countries have undergone profound political change, turning a page on decades of autocratic governance, establishing new democratic institutions and increasing checks and balances, including by establishing more independent judiciaries and constitutionalized anti-corruption bodies. These political transitions provide fertile ground for strengthening anti-corruption work in the region and for sharing good practices between countries. This trend has been accelerated **by the African Union, which has increasingly emphasized the importance of countering corruption and IFFs**. Effectively preventing and countering corruption will enable and accelerate global and African development agendas.



ISTOCKPHOTO/WILDPixel



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#### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Deepening and scaling up our work with Member States to strengthen legal and institutional accountability frameworks in line with the outcomes of the Implementation Review Mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including by better utilizing innovation and reinforcing the roles of women and youth.
- Expanding the evidence-base on the occurrence of corruption across the continent.
- Increasing cooperation with all segments of society and leveraging our partnerships to encourage citizen participation in preventing and countering corruption involving civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, academia and the media.

## 4.2 THE ECONOMY IS BETTER PROTECTED FROM ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS AND MONEY-LAUNDERING

Illicit financial flows (IFFs) remain a key impediment to Africa's attainment of the 2030 Agenda. A lack of data, together with the absence of a universally accepted methodology to monitor IFFs, limits understanding of both the size of estimated flows and the policy required to address them. Given the multidimensional and transnational nature of IFFs, significant domestic resources – illicitly acquired and channelled out – pose a continent-wide development challenge.

Stemming the outflow of money-laundering linked to terrorism, organized crime, corruption and other crimes would make a significant contribution to economic growth. **African countries are increasing their ability to trace and recover laundered assets from human trafficking, corruption and wildlife crime, as well as other types of crime.** These forfeited assets are being used to support development including **COVID-19 relief efforts.**

Current international legal instruments provide a comprehensive global framework for strengthening Africa's measures to counter IFFs, including in asset recovery, enhancing enforcement and preventive measures relating to money-laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism.

### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Strengthening Member States' capacities to better understand, estimate and develop responses to address IFFs by improving data collection and the compilation of related statistics.
- Scaling up efforts with Member States to disrupt the money-laundering activities of organized crime groups and scaling up innovation- and technology-based approaches.

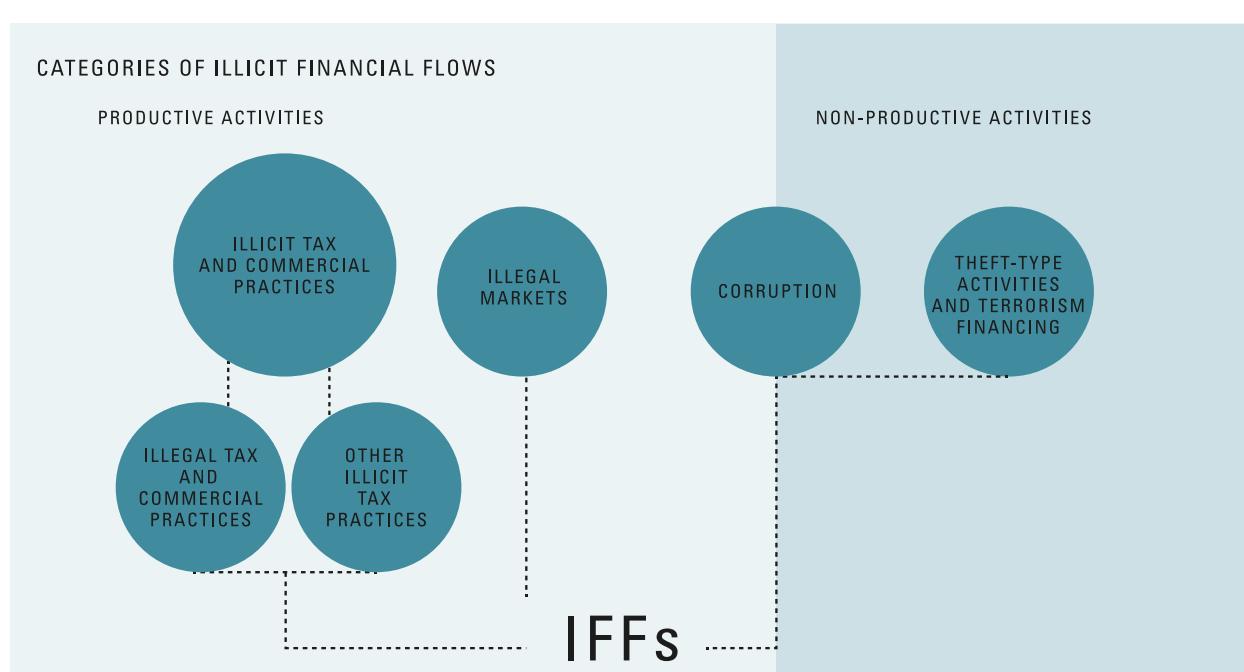
## 4.3 ILLICITLY OBTAINED ASSETS ARE RECOVERED AND RETURNED

It is widely acknowledged that IFFs play a significant part in draining the fiscal revenues of African countries. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development stresses the need for stolen assets to be returned in order to solidify the domestic resource base of African countries towards financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The AU Declaration on the African Anti-Corruption Year in 2018 calls for the efficient recovery and return of stolen assets to Africa with due respect for the sovereignty of African Member States and their domestic interests.

At the same time, Africa faces a multitude of challenges in stolen asset repatriation. A wide gap exists between the levels of frozen or confiscated assets and those returned. Many practitioners lack the recovery expertise to enforce, prosecute and confiscate assets. In line with the AU Common African Position on Asset Recovery, effective, accountable and transparent institutions are required to effectively address corruption and accelerate the repatriation of assets stolen from Africa.

### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Strengthening national and regional legal networks, oversight institutions, research and data infrastructure and mechanisms for transparency, in support of effective stolen asset recovery and prompt return, in partnership with Member States and financial institutions.
- Facilitating mechanisms for increased cooperation between Member States in the recovery of illicitly obtained assets, with a focus on South-South cooperation and a goal of more effective and efficient asset recovery and return.





## INVESTMENT AREA 5. MAKING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS MORE EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE

In support of Member States' efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 16 and the African Union's Aspiration, we will work together to prevent crime, strengthen border management and criminal justice responses through human rights- and evidence-based policies and programmes. We will support Member States to ensure their criminal justice systems are fair, effective and accountable in order to best serve all people coming into contact with the system, including the most vulnerable.



### 5.1 AFRICA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IS IMPROVED

Law enforcement authorities play a critical role in early criminal justice system processes including enforcing the rule of law, promoting good governance, detection and investigation, preventing crime, protecting citizens and property and responding to victims.

The legitimacy of, and public trust in, law enforcement agents is key to addressing any form of crime. Effective internal and external oversight, accountability and integrity processes, as well as the development of skills to engage with citizens and community structures, can promote transparency and gain public trust. Alternative systems of policing reliant on local, whole-of-society solutions can help facilitate social cohesion in urban areas. Shared security issues can be addressed holistically through the collaboration of traditional law enforcement and a range of state and non-state actors.

Women remain underrepresented in the law enforcement, security and justice institutions of global, regional and national governance structures, and are not empowered to shape these institutions. There is a need to achieve equal participation of women in these areas, so that women can meaningfully impact

policy making and contribute to designing solutions. Moreover, to be accountable and inclusive, the security and justice sectors should recognize the agency of women and girls and ensure their inclusion in security and justice institutions and decision-making. Authorities need a highly skilled, diverse and trained workforce, effective witness and suspect interviewing techniques, forensic capacity and evidence management. Inter-agency cooperation, intelligence gathering and analysis and information sharing systems are essential for robust casework. Cross-border cooperation is essential to prevent and counter the trafficking of drugs, firearms, natural resources, as well as human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants.

Many African countries are tackling these complex challenges through effective cooperation measures reliant on collaboration between origin, transit and destination countries. This has resulted in improved cross-border cooperation measures, involving intelligence-led border management and passenger and cargo profiling to control aviation, maritime transport and land travel. Where borders are porous or where the maritime domain is vast, initiatives such as border liaison offices, joint airport task forces, port control units and MDA are particularly effective in disrupting transnational organized crime actors and networks.

#### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Supporting air-, land- and maritime-based law enforcement institutions with state-of-the-art approaches that prioritize integrity and effectiveness and promote inclusion.
- Supporting law enforcement institutions to promote problem- and community-oriented policing to proactively address citizens' safety and security, particularly in contexts of rapid urbanization.
- Strengthening Member States' capacities and responses to crime and corruption by building criminal justice systems and integrating technological, 'smart city' solutions to build resilient local governance structures.



UNODC/ALLAN GICHIGI

## 5.2 ENHANCED ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL THOSE IN NEED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION

It is paramount to fully safeguard the rights of alleged and sentenced offenders and their humane treatment during and after criminal proceedings, and to protect and assist victims affected by crime, while also ensuring that the rights and needs of particular groups are respected to ensure equity. Women, children, youth and the poorest lack the guidance, familiarity or access to resources that would allow them to fully exercise their rights in criminal justice processes, whether as victims or alleged offenders. Gender-responsive approaches, and special emphasis on assistance to the most vulnerable groups, are priorities for effective criminal justice reform. Throughout the criminal justice process, systems must respect the human rights and well-being of all people in contact with the criminal justice system, with offender rehabilitation and reintegration as key goals.

Africa has made considerable progress over recent years to strengthen the rule of law and the effectiveness and accountability of criminal justice systems. Many African countries have undertaken efforts to enhance access to justice to protect the rights of the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind. The Mo Ibrahim Foundation's African Governance Report 2019 assesses that, since **2014, Africa has improved on all measures of rule of law**. On average, citizens are provided with more effective and secure access to justice, while judicial institutions are more independent and their processes more transparent. Certain countries in particular score well on indicators on rule of law, access to justice, and trust in the courts. However, **countries in conflict or emerging from conflict face much greater challenges in providing access to justice to their citizens**.



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UNODC/YOUSSEF EL SEBAI, FADY SAMIR, MOHANAD DIAB

### OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Scaling up support to Member States to enhance access to legal aid for those in need, particularly for groups with vulnerabilities, specific rights and special needs in the criminal justice system, such as pre-trial detainees, women prisoners and victims of gender-based violence.
- Supporting Member States in partnership with UN agencies, regional organizations and civil society to strengthen specialized child justice systems to uphold children's rights and ensure that they are better served and protected throughout the administration of justice, in line with international standards and norms.
- Protecting and assisting victims of crime, through sustainable national and regional solutions that build on partnerships with victim-centred organizations and other civil society actors.

## **5.3 JUSTICE SYSTEMS IN AFRICA ARE ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND INDEPENDENT**

Many criminal justice systems in Africa have limited capacity to hold offenders to account. Inadequate responses by justice institutions or professionals can result in secondary victimization. Effective prosecution of organized crime offences requires intensified communication and information sharing between respective countries' prosecutors, relevant central authorities and other legal actors. Judicial integrity and judicial cooperation mechanisms are fundamental components of effective cross-border criminal investigation and strong rule of law.

Public trust and confidence in strong and effective justice sector institutions is key to ensuring good governance and sustainable development. Effective international cooperation mechanisms are vital for the justice sector to bring perpetrators of organized and complex transnational crimes and terrorism to justice in a fair, transparent and timely manner.

### **OUR OBJECTIVES:**

- Strengthening the integrity of the judiciary and the legitimacy of the prosecution, and equipping prosecutors further with the skills, knowledge base and information sharing mechanisms required for complex criminal casework.
- Supporting prosecution services, the judiciary and courts to reduce secondary victimization, respond more effectively to gender-based violence and promote gender-responsive non-custodial measures.
- Promoting continental, regional and national networks for improved information and best practice sharing, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation.



## **5.4 REHABILITATIVE APPROACHES TO PRISON MANAGEMENT ARE ADOPTED**

A major and continuing concern in the justice sector is the growing prison population and the resulting financial and social burden on the continent. Many prisons on the African continent are at high risk of vulnerable prisoners, particularly youth, transitioning into more serious forms of crime including violent extremism. Moreover, the needs of female prisoners are not fully met and reflected in prison management and operations. Increased public safety can be achieved together with safeguarding the humane treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders by rationalizing sentencing policies, promoting alternatives to imprisonment where suitable, efficient case processing and post-release support.

**As witnessed during the global COVID-19 pandemic, prisoners in overcrowded prisons and closed settings are more vulnerable to virus transmission.** Access to healthcare, including the treatment of drug use disorders and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, psychological health and COVID-19 preventive measures, are essential for criminal justice systems to effectively and sustainably reduce crime. The COVID-19 crisis also prompted emergency action to decongest detention facilities. In 2020, examples of good practice in emergency prisoner release schemes which aligned with victim-centred and human rights- based principles were seen across Africa. Together with UN partners, UNODC has advocated for, and assisted in, emergency release efforts to reduce populations in prisons and other closed settings, and also promoted efforts to sustain and firmly institutionalize non-custodial measures in suitable cases.

### **OUR OBJECTIVES:**

- Promoting international and regional standards to ensure safe, secure, humane and gender-sensitive custody aimed at the rehabilitation, social reintegration and economic empowerment of offenders.
- Supporting Member States to provide increased and uninterrupted access to evidence-based health services, including treatment of drug use disorders and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, for all people in contact with the criminal justice system from the point of arrest through to post-release.
- Assisting Member States in promoting restorative justice, advancing alternatives to imprisonment and limiting imprisonment to a measure of last resort by enhancing their capacity to implement non-custodial measures in suitable cases and at all stages of the criminal justice process.
- Strengthening capacities, responses and strategies to treat children in conflict with the law in line with international standards and in compliance with the principle that deprivation of the liberty of children should only be used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON SHOE CRAFTING, PART  
OF THE 'SECOND CHANCE: REHABILITATING AND REINTEGRATING  
CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW' PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SOLIDARITY AT THE MARG  
INSTITUTION FOR YOUNG MALE OFFENDERS IN CAIRO, EGYPT



# THE CHANGE ENABLERS

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## STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

To fulfil the ambitions of this Vision, we are committing to a deeper role as facilitator, convener and connector of partners and networks. Multilateral commitments and partnerships will be expanded to develop innovative hybrid responses to organized crime, terrorism and corruption, orientated towards comprehensive and improved conflict management and violence prevention. We will work closely with African Member States, the African Union, sub-regional organizations, international organizations including UN partners, international financial institutions and the donor community to promote peace and security and to support the operationalization of the **relevant African Union frameworks, initiatives and decisions**. Acknowledging the particular challenge posed by terrorism in Africa, UNODC will continue working in close coordination with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and other entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. UNODC will work closely with the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) to promote peace and security in peace operations and peacebuilding contexts across Africa.

We are committed to bringing our expertise and capacity to the Member States in Africa that request our support and where we have no presence as yet. In support of the UN Development System reform and as a UN Country Team partner, we will deliver more of our work through joint UN programmes and through a coherent system-wide approach in direct support of countries' development goals.

We will collaborate with Africa's private sector and diaspora, which can play catalytic roles in supporting this Vision's goals. Partnerships with civil society and academia will also be crucial in developing the multi-stakeholder engagement needed, as well as for bringing increased transparency, accountability and inclusion to programme design and delivery. We will intensify our collaboration with key influencers to prevent violence and corruption and to reduce stigma and discrimination.

Finally, we will strengthen, diversify and intensify partnerships with our donor base to address the many and complex global challenges relating to drugs and transnational organized crime in Africa, with a view to securing more funding to implement activities in support of this Vision and our ambitions.



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## REINFORCING THE ROLE OF WOMEN

Through gender-responsive interventions, we will ensure that programming leverages the perspectives of all genders. Women are uniquely positioned to be agents of change, but their potential to help solve issues and innovate is not sufficiently utilized. New opportunities will be identified to engage further with African women and to place African women at the heart of this investment in Africa to achieve transformative change. We will work harder to reduce the exclusion of women and girls in the criminal justice system, particularly as professionals in the field of law enforcement, as well as for victims and perpetrators.

In recognition of the pivotal role that women play in violence prevention, conflict resolution and sustaining peace, new opportunities will be created which promote women's participation and leadership and enhance their access to justice. We will partner with women's civil society and communities, and support grassroots efforts to empower women and girls to challenge gender discrimination. We will support Member States to enhance the capacities in all phases of their criminal justice systems to combat violence against women and girls, challenge stereotypes, gender discrimination and cultural bias, and enable increased access to health services for women and girls in custody.



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## EMPOWERING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

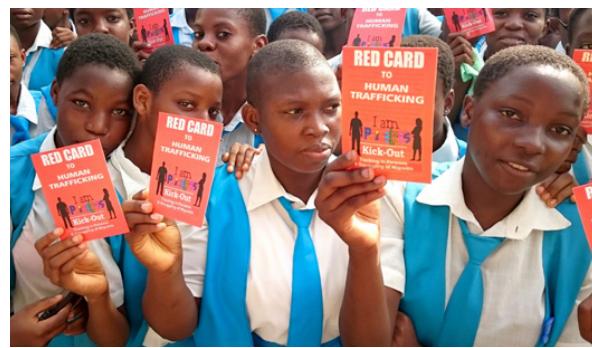
Empowering children and youth as key agents of transformative change is a cornerstone of how Africa can fulfil the ambitions of this Vision. We will support the development of strategies and policies that build on, and are informed by, young people's views, integrating dimensions which advance gender equity and equality and more effectively challenge harmful sociocultural gender norms and stereotypes. Such approaches will empower women and girls to speak up and, in parallel, empower men and boys to abandon harmful stereotypes and embrace respectful, healthy relationships.

In fragile, conflict and post-conflict contexts, empowering and involving youth as agents of change to address organized crime, terrorism and corruption can build collective and individual resilience and help alleviate the causes of violent conflict. We will support Member States to build responses which increase the participation and inclusion of youth in preventing and countering drugs, organized crime, terrorism and corruption.

We will partner more closely with youth-led grassroots organizations, youth diaspora organizations and youth-focused volunteer organizations, including the UN Volunteer Programme, AU Youth Volunteer Programme and the Generated Unlimited Programme. Fostering stronger connections with Africa's youth will enable us to better understand their challenges. We commit to a decade of programming which will target, involve and empower children and youth, particularly those with disabilities, the most vulnerable and at-risk and those more likely to face exclusion and discrimination.



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## PRIORITIZING PREVENTION

We will scale up our support to Member States' prevention capacities in order to address the drivers of threats related to drugs, transnational organized crime, terrorism, corruption and money-laundering.

We recognize that effective prevention requires multisectoral responses at the individual, community and society levels. Evidence-based prevention strategies will be scaled up to support and build the resilience of societies, institutions and at-risk and vulnerable groups. Increased collaboration with community- and faith-based organizations and key influencers (such as families, children, youth and sub-groups and their religious, traditional and indigenous leaders) will be a priority, alongside continued engagement with schools, academic institutions and the media.



## INNOVATION-LED IMPACT

We will identify more effective solutions and implement innovative approaches to contribute to Africa's resilience to, and safety from, threats relating to drugs, crime, violence, terrorism, corruption and money-laundering. Rapid technological change, which addresses economic, social and environmental challenges across Africa, has been widely celebrated and welcomed. The use of digital technology and services provides Member States with opportunities to combat crime and drugs. By partnering with Africa's vibrant private, scientific, academic and civil society sectors, we will invest in innovation-based approaches utilizing science, technology and digital means across our programming to enhance impact.



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## **ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION AND STIGMA**

We recognize how stigma, discrimination and human rights violations continue to hinder people's access to much needed services.

They often constitute a major barrier to effective national drug policy, crime prevention and criminal justice system responses. We commit to making investments in our programming, policy and normative support and implementation to reduce the discrimination faced by those most stigmatized on the continent.

We will support Member States to create social and legal environments that are enabling and accessible to people requiring effective, fair and people-centred services. We will work with institutions to better understand how stigma develops and manifests itself across different settings and which groups it is impacting the most. As a result, we will be able to support tailored responses to ensure discrimination and stigma are challenged. We will support institutions, civil society and the media to develop information, education and communications which generate accurate science- and human rights-based messaging which challenges false, discriminatory narratives.



# CONCLUSION

Our Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 sets out our priorities and the levers needed for transformative and sustainable change to better support Africa towards improved safety and resilience from drugs, organized crime, terrorism, corruption and illicit financial flows. This is the result of an extensive level of consultation with stakeholders, unprecedented for UNODC, showing that there is a huge groundswell of support for ambitious change that will allow us to work more effectively in concert with Africa towards the realization of Agenda 2030. Our Vision sets out our intent to partner, empower, involve, include, innovate and educate towards an Africa we all want.

Our Vision 2030 has the potential to kick-start an unprecedented era of transformation and requires us to shift to new and innovative approaches in line with our **UNODC Strategy 2021 - 2025**. Achieving this will require concerted effort across the organization, both at headquarters and in the field.

UNODC's portfolio of new bankable initiatives respond comprehensively to new and emerging needs and challenges in Africa, underpinned by our unique mandate and expertise. Mobilizing the financial resources required to operationalize our

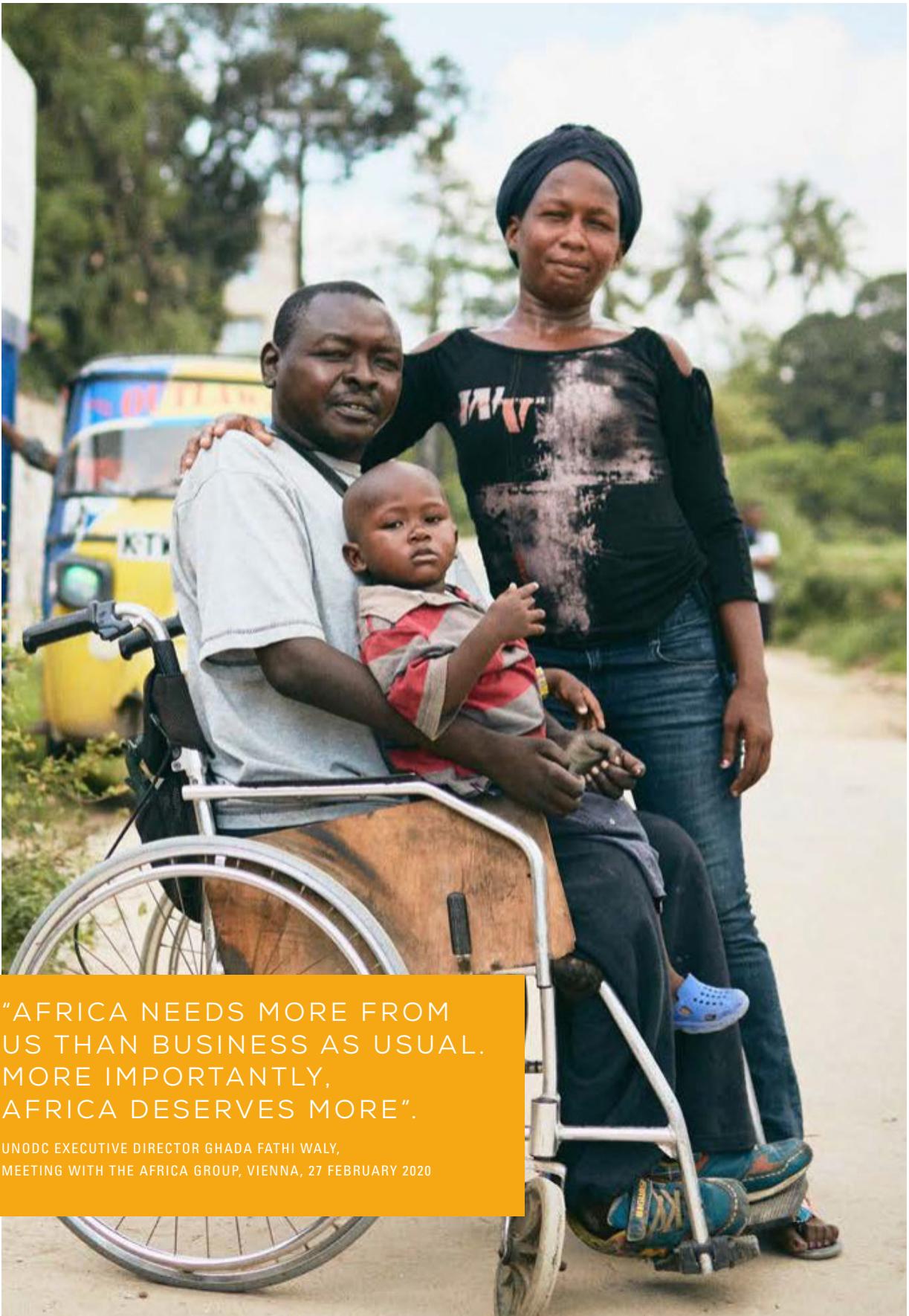
Vision requires significant financing from a wider spectrum of sources at the domestic, regional, and international level. The bankable initiatives add value to existing UNODC programming, respond to critical gaps and represent our commitment to joint UN programming for more impact and better results across all five investment areas and their respective priorities. Biennially, until 2030, we will review our Vision carefully to assess where we are headed, and the progress still required towards the 2030 delivery date for the SDGs.

We conclude with an invitation to drive change together towards realizing the SDGs by 2030: UNODC can network governments, organizations, experts, institutions and people from across Africa and around the globe to unite and help activate agents of change against drugs, organized crime, terrorism, violence, corruption and illicit financial flows. If you feel that you can contribute to realizing the changes that we envisage, please participate.

## IF YOU ARE

- REPRESENTING A MEMBER STATE OR REGIONAL ORGANIZATION IN AFRICA AND YOU WANT TO COLLABORATE WITH US
- A CITIZEN AND YOU WANT TO SUPPORT OUR MESSAGES AND JOIN US IN REACHING OUR AMBITIONS
- A CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION OR KEY INFLUENCER THAT WANTS TO DRIVE THE CHANGE PROPOSED HERE
- A UN ENTITY OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT WANTS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED PROGRAMMES WITH US
- A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, FOUNDATION OR MEMBER STATE THAT WANTS TO PROVIDE MACRO-LEVEL SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, AND NEEDS SUPPORT WITH ITS MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT
- A THINK TANK, SCHOOL OR ACADEMIC INSTITUTION THAT WANTS TO CONNECT AND NETWORK TO HELP TRANSLATE THEORY INTO PRACTICE
- AN INSTITUTION WITH FUNDING TO SUPPORT THIS VISION

PLEASE CONTACT US AT: [UNODC-AFRICA@UN.ORG](mailto:UNODC-AFRICA@UN.ORG)



"AFRICA NEEDS MORE FROM  
US THAN BUSINESS AS USUAL.  
MORE IMPORTANTLY,  
AFRICA DESERVES MORE".

UNODC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GHADA FATHI WALY,  
MEETING WITH THE AFRICA GROUP, VIENNA, 27 FEBRUARY 2020

**UNODC**  
STRATEGIC  
VISION FOR  
**AFRICA 2030**



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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime